ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

Etowah Baptist Association,

--HELD WITH—

BRISTOE'S CREEK CHURCH,

Aurora, Etowah County, Ala.,

OCTOBER 19, 20, 21, 1898.

OFFICERS:

REV. W. L. CULBERTSON, Moderator, - - -	Attalla, Ala.
R. W. BROCK, Clerk, - - - - -	Hill, Ala.
W. T. MURPHREE, Treasurer, - - - -	Gadsden, Ala.

The next session of this Association will be held with Mt. Carmel Church, Etowah County, Friday before the Fourth Sunday in October, 1899.

ATTALLA, ALA.
PRINTED AT THE MIRROR OFFICE.
1899.

Order of Business.

1. Reading letters from the churches.
2. Election of officers.
3. Invite visiting ministers and brothers to seats.
4. Call for petitionery letters.
5. Call for correspondents.
6. Appoint committees.
7. Report of standing committees.
   (Committees may report at any time when time not occupied)
8. Miscellaneous business.
9. Call roll and read minutes.
10. Fix order of printing and distributing minutes.
11. Adjournment.

Ordained Ministers.

W. L. Culbertson, Attalla.
B. F. Smith, Gadsden.
J. R. Trotter, East Gadsden.
J. W. Battle, Gadsden.
K. S. Steele, Hoke's Bluff.
W. Y. Adams, " "
W. W. Wester, " "
W. J. Nash, " "
J. T. Chadwick, Glencoe.
J. M. Flood, Gadsden.
J. E. Smith, Markton.
L. J. Bishop, "
P. M. Archer, Attalla.
Jacob Gray, "
B. F. Kirkland, Gadsden.
G. E. Jones, Alabama City.
J. W. Willis, Gadsden.

Licentiates.

T. P. Galloway, Buford.
J. W. Heaton, Hoke's Bluff.
W. M. Slaton, " "
T. O. Heaton, " "
C. W. C. Tucker, Crudup.
W. C. Smith, "
J. R. Tilley, Brice.

MINUTES

Of the Fifteenth Annual Session of Etowah Baptist Association.

The Etowah Association met according to appointment with Bristoe's Creek Church, Rev. W. L. Culbertson, Moderator; R. W. Brock, Clerk. The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. J. W. Willis. Text, John, 3rd chapter, 5th verse.

AFTERNOON.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Rev. J. T. Chadwick.

Moved that we adopt the order of business of last meeting.

Appointed Bros. R. R. Yeates and N. N. Vann to read letters from churches. Read letters and enrolled delegates as follows:

Antioch—D. Steele, W. M. Shaw.

Attalla—Rev. W. L. Culbertson, N. N. Vann, J. W. Wright, S. D. Monroe.

Bethany—J. W. Gilliland and R. W. Brock.

Bristoe's Creek—J. J. Frix, C. G. P. Ross, Willie Dobbs, J. S. Brasseal, H. H. Russell.

Cane Springs—L. F. Rickels, T. P. Galloway.

Center—Rev. B F. Smith, T. C. Wright, W. I. Lee.

Dwight—Rev. G. E. Jones, B. C. Miller, A. M. Richie, M. J. Morehead.

East Gadsden—Not represented.

Fairview—Rev J W Battles, L Divine, G H Bearden.

Friendship—M Tullis, G W Jones.

Gadsden—Rev J W Willis, D P Goodhue, W T Murphree.

Greenwood—N W Sauls, O B Hawkins.

Liberty Coosa—Rev W W Wester, A H Barnes, L L Herron, W M Slaton, James Wisdom, G T Fox.

Mt. Araat—J T Chadwick, W L Marker.

Mt. Carmel—J L Jones.

Macedonia—J R Holmes.

New Harmony—G W Norris.

Pilgrim's Rest—Rev J E Smith, Joseph Bryant.

Pleasant Hill—W H Hill.

Pleasant Valley—J W Swindall.

Union No. 1—J L Johnson, O Q Norton, J P Bearden.
Union No. 2—J M Mayo, W A Culbertson, J C Lutes.
Walnut Grove—J T Campbell, Dr J A Hurst.
White Springs—R R Yeates, Rev B F Kirkland, P G Newton.
White's Chapel—Not represented.
Appointed Bros O Q Norton and G H Bearden tellers.

Rev W L Culbertson was re-elected Moderator, R W Brock, Clerk, and W T Murphree. Treasurer.

Called for petitionary letters. Letters were read from Friendship and Pleasant Hill churches, petitioning for membership in the Association. The churches were received and the Moderator gave the delegates the right hand of fellowship in behalf of the Association.

Correspondents were received as follows: Rev I M Thompson, from Marshall Association, and Rev J A May from Warrior River.

Appointed the pastor and deacons of this church and Bros T C Wright, L L Herron and L Divine as a committee on devotional exercises.

Supplied vacancies on committees as follows: State Missions, R R Yeates; Associational Missions, J T Chadwick; Education, Dr J A Hurst, Obituaries, J R Holmes; Finance Committee, J W Wright, J P Bearden, D D Head.

Adjourned with prayer by Rev J E Smith.

SECOND DAY.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator by reading the 93rd Psalm, and prayer by Rev B F Smith. Read and adopted the minutes of the previous day. Appointed standing committees as follows: Foreign Missions, J T Chadwick, T P Galloway, James Wisdom; Home Missions, J W Battles, W M Slaton, B F Kirkland; State Missions, G E Jones, J W Willis, W M Shaw; Associational Missions, B F Smith, J E Smith, W W Wester; Temperance, D P Goodhue, A H Barnes, J T Campbell; Sunday Schools, R R Yeates, O Q Norton, J W Gilliland; Education, W Y Adams, W T Murphree, D D Head; Obituaries, L L Herron, P G Newton, J S Brasseal; Orphans' Home, Dr J A Hurst, J C Lutes, T J Brown; Executive Committee, J W Willis, A H Barnes, O Q Norton, J T Campbell, R R Yeates, R T Moore, N N Vann, R W Brock, W T Murphree; Time, Place and Nominations, O Q Norton, J W Gilliland, A H Barnes, J T Campbell, R R Yeates, J L Jones.

On motion a special committee be appointed on Orphans' Home, to report at this meeting. Committee, Rev J W Willis, S D Monroe.

Moved that all three committees on missions report and all discussed under the same head today at 2 o'clock.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

We believe that they who have failed to receive the spirit of missions have just that far missed the essence of the gospel, for the commission to preach the gospel to every creature includes us and everybody else. Therefore, we, your committee, feel it to be our duty to urge on this Association the spirit of missions rather than the plan, whatever the plan agreed upon be. We can but do our duty as Baptists in spreading the gospel. We should never loose sight of the fact that if we as a denomination have

the gospel at our disposal we cannot afford to withhold it from any one when the commission embraces the whole world. Then let us as Baptists not cease our efforts in supporting the gospel where it is and sending it where it is not, remembering that in helping others we also help ourselves.

W. W. WESTER, } Committee
R. R. YEATES, }

The committee appointed to revise our Articles of Faith read the Articles of Faith of Cherokee Baptist Association, which was discussed by Rev. J E Smith, G E Jones, J C Lutes and W W Wester, and the following motion was made: That the Association defer action on above report and it be carried to the different churches and they to accept or reject and send delegates instructed one year from now, and then this Association will act on same.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Your committee on Home Missions submit the following report: By consulting the report of the Southern Baptist Convention of May, 1898, we find that the Home Board has employed 467 missionaries this year, against 372 last year; baptised this year 4.739, against 4,709 last year; total additions this year 9,509, against 9,455 last year; the amount raised and expended on the field home missions this year is $54,251.04, against $45,675.82 last year; there has been collected and expended on houses of worship on the field this year $56,385.45, against $51,540 last year, making a total of money raised and expended on the field of $110,-636.50, against a total last year of $97,211.82, an increase of $13,424.68; total costs raised by the Board from all sources has been $86,827.27, against $83,184.31, an increase of $3,702.96, while the Board is and has been doing efficient work, yet by the increasing of our population in the home field our responsibilities become greater year by year. Our seaport towns are being filled with foreigners. We must meet them with the gospel.

With the closing of hostilities between the United States and Spain we must take up our work in Cuba. In Cuba we have the opportunity of the nineteenth century. May the head of the church burden the hearts of his people with this great responsibility.

REV. J. E. SMITH, } Committee.
J. W. GILLILAND, }

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Your committee are glad to be able to report that the Walnut Grove Baptist College opened its doors to the public on the morning of Tuesday, September 6, when an encouraging enrollment of pupils was made. The building and lot, which was donated by the citizens of Walnut Grove, is a most suitable one, the building being large and commodious and well furnished with furniture and other school requisites. The Baptists may well be proud of this institution, and will no doubt give it their patronage and hearty moral support. We recommend to this body the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, First, That the Etowah Baptist Association, believing that the Walnut Grove Baptist College as an institution fostered by the Baptists of this section will decidedly promote the progress and interests

of the Baptists of this country, urge the Baptists of this Association to patronize the Walnut Grove Baptist College and give it their moral support at all times. Second, That as a state institution the Baptists have at East Lake, near Birmingham, Howard College, the peer of any institution of its kind in the state, which no Baptist of this Association should fail to patronize when sending their children away from home. Third, That the Judson Female Institute, at Marion, and the Alabama Central Female College, at Tuscaloosa, are Baptist institutions for the education of females and should be patronized by Baptists. That this Association adopts as an institution to be fostered by its support and patronage the Walnut Grove Baptist College and gratefully accepts the property so kindly given by the citizens of Walnut Grove, and endorse the action taken by the Board appointed by the Etowah, Marshall and Warrior Associations at their meeting at Walnut Grove in the acceptance of this property and establishment of this college upon its present basis.

D. P. GOODHUE, }
DR. J. A. HURST, } Committee.

The above report was adopted after being discussed by W T Murphree, Dr J A Hurst, J W Willis, W Y Adams, I M Thompson and D P Goodhue.

On motion we have a recess of five minutes for Temperance sermon.

After assembling together Rev W Y Adams preached an able sermon on Temperance. Text, 2nd Peter, 1st chapter, 6th verse.

AFTERNOON.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator, with prayer by Rev I M Thompson.

REPORT ON ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on Associational Missions, beg to submit the following: Owing to the fact that the executive committee has had no meeting we have but little to report. We notice that Dwight Church has asked for aid to build a house of worship. We think this to be one of the greatest places of need in our Association, and we hope the Association will consider this well and the churches will come to their financial aid. We also desire to call attention to the work done by Brothers B F Smith and J T Chadwick. They held a meeting at the Alliance Hall which resulted in the conversion of sixteen souls and the organization of Friendship Church with thirty-three members. We believe that there could be a great work done in our Associotion by employing a man to work in destitute places. We recommend that such steps be taken, provided we will pay him.

G. E. JONES, }
J. T. CHADWICK, } Committee.
W. M. SLATON, }

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

During the year which ended with the meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention at Norfolk, Va, in May the following were the results in gifts and work: Missionaries, 76; native assistants, 117; churches, 102; out stations, 92; membership, 4,760; baptisms, 701; schools, 41; scholars, 1,111; Sunday school scholars, 1,624; receipts Foreign Board for year, $125,249 69, of which amount $6,556.76 was contributed by native churches. The best results in foreign mission work for the past few years cannot be tabulated, such, for instance, as a decreasing opposition to the gospel on the part of the political powers in heathendom, so that in many heathen lands we find the gospel now welcomed by rulers who a few years ago persecuted missionaries to death. Heathen lands are adopting Christian civilization, and by this means opening new and wider doors for the preaching of the Christian religion. The Emperor of China has recently been dethroned, if not murdered, because his decrees for the establishment of Christian ideas in government. His views are rapidly coming to the views of the Christian people. These are signs of the times made possible only by Christian missionary work. The heathens are learning to discriminate between the true and false, between the true Christian religion which is of the heart and the outward formal profession of religion made by Roman Catholics. The Philipinos detest the Catholic priests who claim to be Christians, and welcome the men who have religion in their hearts. The work of Christianizing the world rests with the Anglo-Saxon race, represented by England and America. Germany, France and Russia have not a pure gospel to preach, and are practically opposed to mission work on political grounds. Of the total $124,249.69 contributed by Southern Baptists for foreign missions last year Alabama gave $6,563, an average of 4.9c per capita. But when we consider that only one-sixth of our church members contributed for this fund at all the average is increased to 26c per capita. We would reaffirm the practical suggestion made in the report on Foreign Missions at the Association last year as the best means for increasing missionary knowledge and zeal in our churches. We especially rejoice at the marked increase of missionary spirit in our Association, as shown by the contributions from the churches.

REV. J. W. WILLIS,
W. M. SHAW, } Committee.

The hour having arrived for discussing missions the above reports were discussed by Revs. J. W. Willis, G. E. Jones, D. P. Goodhue, and adopted.

On motion, we take up a subscription to help build a house of worship at Dwight. The following is the amount each church agreed to pay: Antioch, $5; Attalla, $25; Gadsden, $25; Greenwood, $3; Liberty Coosa, $10; J T Chadwick, $1; J W Gilliland, cash $1; Rev J E Smith, cash $1; Union No. 2, $5; Walnut Grove, $5; total amount, $81.

Committee on Time, Place and Nominations made the following report: Time, Friday before the fourth Sunday in October, 1899. Place, Mt. Carmel. Introductory Sermon, Rev J E Smith; alternate, Rev J T Chadwick. Temperance Sermon, Rev J W Willis; alternate, Rev W W Wester. Missionary Sermon, Rev J A May; alternate, Rev W Y Adams.

O. Q. NORTON, Chairman Com.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TEMPERANCE.

Whereas, the manufacture, sale and use of alcoholic intoxicants as beverages is one of the chief agencies of the devil, designed and made use of by him for the degredation and destruction of the human race, both morally and physically, and for the great detriment of the gospel of Christ; and whereas, said intoxicants antagonizes the Holy Spirit as is evidenced in the fact that when a human being is inflamed by the spirit of alcohol his words and actions demonstrate that he is possessed of a spirit wholly contrary to the Holy Spirit, so that the spirit engendered by alcohol and the Holy Spirit cannot abide in the same heart; therefore, be it resolved, first, that this body, the Etowah Baptist Association is persuaded that no Baptist church can consistently receive into its membership or retain in its membership any person engaged in the manufacture, sale or use of any alcoholic intoxicant as a beverave. Second, That all alcoholic intoxicants, being agencies of the devil for the above named purposes, and the spirit of alcohol being inimical to the Holy Spirit, it cannot symbolize the peace-giving, saving blood of Christ. Third, That this body is persuaded that the fruit of the vine (unfermented grape juice), the only term made use of in any mention of the Lord's supper in the New Testament, and not wine since the term wine as used in this country at the present time is applied to fermented products of the grape containing alcohol and not to unfermented products, should be used in the sacrament to symbolize the blood of Christ. Fourth, That since it has become an unholy occupation of some of the members and even deacons of some of the churches of this Association to make and sell fermented wines because of the filthy lucre therein, this body advises such churches to be firm in its condemnation of such business and suppress it or exclude such offending members.

B. F. SMITH,
J. L. JONES,
S. D. MONROE, } Committee.

The above report was adopted without discussion.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We, your committee on Sunday Schools, beg leave to submit the following report: We find that the churches are giving more attention to Sunday schools than ever before, and that the Lord has blessed them in their efforts wonderfully. We find that the churches that have good Sunday schools are in better working order and are giving more for missions and doing more for the cause of Christ than those that have no schools. A large per cent. of the accessions to the church has come through the efforts of the Sunday schools. We believe that the older people are leaving this grand work for the young people. This, we think, is one of the greatest hinderances to the progress of the Sunday schools and church work. Only one church in the Association reports more members in Sunday school than members in church, the general average being about one-half. We think it is the duty of every parent to attend and take an active part in Sunday school work. Educate the children not

only in the Bible but in giving to missions and we will have better church workers. We find that out of twenty-four churches we have only eighteen that have Sunday school. We believe that no church, whether great or small, is doing her full duty until she has organized a Sunday school that is attended by most of her members. We recommend that the church letters to the Association make a complete report of number last reported, present membership, number of conversions in Sunday school, just as they would a church letter. Let us get the members of the church to attend Sunday school, teach the children to trust in the Master while young, and our churches will grow and the Lord's cause will prosper.

N. N. VANN,
A. H. BARNES, } Committee.
W. M. SHAW,

The above report was adopted after being discussed by N. N. Vann, D. P. Goodhue, Rev. J. W. Willis, R. R. Yeates and J. T. Chadwick. Adjourned with prayer by Rev. G. E. Jones.

THIRD DAY.

The Association was called to order by the Moderator by reading 24th Division of Psalms, and prayer by Rev. B. F. Kirkland. Read and adopted the minutes of the previous day.

REPORT ON OBITUARIES.

We, your committee on obituaries, beg leave to make the following report: We find that God in his providence has removed from our midst our beloved brother, M. J. Hall, who departed this life August 23, 1898, aged 75 years. He was a consistent member and deacon of Macedonia Baptist church for a number of years. We also find we have lost another old prop in the person of Sister Mary Gardner, who was born September 27, 1810, departed this life October 13, 1898, aged 88 years. She assisted in the organization of Bethany church in Little Wills Valley seventy years ago, and has been a faithful servant in the Master's cause ever since. Also Bro. T. M. Nelson, who was a faithful member and an efficient deacon of Walnut Grove church, died in February, 1898, after a very short illness. Bro. Nelson was 55 years old. In his death the church has sustained a great loss and the community an exemplary and useful citizen.

O. Q. NORTON,
J. R. HOLMES, } Committee.
J. T. CAMPBELL,

The above report was adopted.

On motion, the committee on Digest of Letters and State of Churches was abolished.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Receipts from Finance Committee—	
For Missions undesignated	$16 12
For State Missions	4 48
For Home Missions	21 10
For Foreign Missions	11 45
For Ministerial Education	80
For Orphanage	2 36
For Minutes	15 65
Gadsden Baptist Church (for Minutes)	2 00
Total	$73 87
Disbursements—	
To R W. Brock, for Minutes	$17 65
State Board	53 86
Rev. J. W. Stewart, Superintendent Orphanage	2 36
Total	$73 87

W. T. MURPHREE, Treasurer.

On motion, a committee of three be appointed to draft a church covenant, to report to the next meeting of the Association for recommendation to the churches of the Association for their adoption. Committee, Rev. B. F. Smith, W. T. Murphree and R. R. Yeates.

The following resolution was offered:

Resolved, That we, the Etowah Baptist Association, will not tolerate the manufacture, sale or use of intoxicating wines or other liquors as a beverage. Therefore, be it further resolved, That we will not fellowship with any church which retains members who are guilty of the above named charges.

The above resolution was discussed by Rev. J. E. Smith, Rev. J. W. Willis, J. T. Chadwick, J. L. Jones, J. W. Wright, D. P. Goodhue, W. T Murphree, J. W. Battles, T. C. Wright, and was unanimously adopted.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

We, your committee on Finance, report cash and vouchers for missions, minutes and ministerial education, $333.59.

J. W. WRIGHT, Chairman.

Adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ORPHANAGE.

We, your committee, commend the Baptist Orphanage of Evergreen, Ala., to the benevolent consideration of our churches. Certainly no worthier object could appeal to our sympathies and be more greatly needed. The Orphans' Home is open to orphan children in all parts of the state, and its directors not only solicit contributions but urge that all children bereft of parents can be brought to their notice so that they may be gathered into the Home with its pure and elevating Christian influences. We have one of the best equipped Homes in the state under the management of Rev. J. W. Stewart and Mrs. I. J. Ansley, both consecrated Christians whose hearts and energies are fully committed to the welfare

of the orphan children. Adjoining the Orphanage is one of the best schools in the state, which offers free tuition to the children, thus affording advantages of education superior to anything possible at their present home. Can we afford to allow the orphan children of deceased Baptist brethren to be cast adrift upon the world, when we may by a small contribution give to them a home where religion and culture reigns supreme?

REV. J. W. WILLIS, Chairman Com.

The above report was adopted.

Moved that the pastors and members of the different churches of this Association take a collection for the Orphanage during the month of December.

The following resolution was offered and adopted:

Resolved, That the fifth Sunday district meetings being very helpful to the cause of Christ in the several districts, this Association recommends to the several churches in these districts to see to it that no services are held in their churches which will interfere with an attendance upon such district meetings.

Moved that the Clerk retain $5 for his services, and expend the remainder for printing minutes, and he to let contract to some one who can get them out in two weeks.

Resolved, That we, as delegates to the Association desire to return our sincere thanks to this church and community for their hospitality during our session.

Appointed correspondents as follows: To Marshall Association, Rev. J. W. Willis, Rev. J. W. Battles. To Warrior River, J. T. Campbell, Dr. J. A. Hurst. Delegates to Southern Baptist Convention, Rev. J. W. Willis, Rev. W. L. Culbertson. State Baptist Convention, J. W. Willis, W. L. Culbertson, J. T. Chadwick, J. W. Battles, B. F. Smith, J. E. Smith, S. J. Carlton, S. D Monroe, A. E. Goodhue.

On motion we dispense with the missionary sermon and take up a collection for state missions. Collection amounted to $3.94.

Took a collection to insure college building at Walnut Grove Amount, $3.00.

Adjourned with prayer by Rev. J. E. Smith.

REV. W. L. CULBERTSON, Moderator.

R. W. BROCK, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

The name of this Association shall be "The Etowah Baptist Association."

The officers of this Association shall be a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who shall perform such duties and perform them in such a manner as is ordinarily required of such officers. They shall be elected at or near the opening of each annual session of the body.

The membership of the Association shall be such churches as shall see fit and be permitted to represent themselves in its session by delegates.

Each church shall be entitled to one delegate for every twenty-five members, or fractional part thereof, but each church shall be entitled to at least two delegates.

The object of this Association shall be the advancement of the Redeemer's Kingdom not only within its own bounds, but throughout the world. It shall aid and encourage, by means of its influence, those grand institutions and agencies which, in the providence of God, have been established by the wise and good among our brethren for the spread of the gospel throughout the world, for the distribution of the Bible among those destitute of it, for the education of young men for the work of the ministry, as well as for the cause of education generally, for the promotion of the Sunday school cause, the cause of temperance, etc.

The Association shall employ such means and adopt such measures as shall seem best calculated to cultivate Christian unity and Fellowship among the brethren within its bounds, to incite the brethren to love and good work, to stir up the pure minds of the brethren by way of remembrance, to secure individual advancement in the Divine life, in every way as individuals, to illustrate to the world the reality of the religion of Jesus Christ.

BY-LAWS.

1. Preparatory to the organization of the Association an introductory sermon shall be preached by a member appointed at the previous meeting, and another shall be named at the same time to perform the duty in case of the failure of the first.

2. The service being performed, the Moderator, or if he be absent, the oldest minister present shall open the Association with prayer.

3. He shall call for letters from the churches, when the delegates shall present them and take their seats in order.

4. When the Association is regularly organized, as prescribed by the Constitution, the correspondence from other Associations shall be called for, the letters read and the messengers received by the right of fellowship from the Moderator. The messengers shall be invited to seats in the Association and accorded the privilege of speaking on any subject before the body, but not of voting on any. Other brethren may be invited to seats with the same privilege and prohibition.

5. Subjects not named in the last minutes may, at the discretion of the Association, be taken up at any time when there is no business before the body.

6. Any subjects not contained in minutes must be regularly brought before the body by motion which shall be seconded before it can be taken up. After this, it shall be considered as property at the disposal of the Association, unless it be withdrawn by the mover.

7. No one shall speak oftener than three times on the same subject, unless permitted by the Association. The speaker shall always rise to his feet and address the Moderator.

8. Silence and decorum shall be observed by every member of the Association while the body is in session, and more especially in the time of debate. All personal reflections and remarks tending to wound the feelings of the brethren shall be strictly avoided.

9. No member of the Association shall leave the house while the Association is in session without permission from the Moderator.

10. In order to expedite business, committees shall be appointed at the discretion of the Association, who shall be named by the Moderator.

11. The meeting of the Association shall, on each day of session, be opened and closed with prayer.

12. The minutes of each day shall be read at its beginning and close of business, after prayer, each succeeding, when names of the delegates shall be called. And the whole of the minutes of the session shall be read at its close and signed by the Moderator and Clerk.

13. Any alteration of these By-Laws may be made at any meeting of the Association by two-thirds of the members present.

RULES OF ORDER.

The rules of order usually observed by deliberative bodies of this kind shall be observed by this Association.

If any point of order be raised by any member of the body, it shall be decided by the Moderator, but appeal may be taken from his decision to the body. "Wells' Parliamentary Practice" shall be used as authority in regard to questions of order.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

There is one and but one God, who is a spirit, omnicent, omnipotent, omnipresent, eternal, unchangeable, infinite in goodness and wisdom, of inviolable truth, perfectly just, of immaculate holiness, the creator of all things, the preserver of all, and the supreme ruler over all. The Godhead is a trinity—Father, Son and Holy Ghost—three persons in one divine essence.

The son became incarnate, thus uniting in himself the divine and human natures that he might become the mediator between God and man; man's final judge, and by his life, death and resurrection, the Redeemer and Savior of his people.

The Holy Spirit is the sanctioner and comforter of God's people. He is, through the divine word, the author of the new spiritual life produced in man in his regeneration.

The Holy Scriptures were given by divine inspiration as a revelation of God's will to man concerning him, and constitute to him an infallible rule of faith and practice.

Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, were created holy, and for a time served the Creator acceptably, living innocently and happy in His favor, but Adam, having been placed under a covenant of works, violated it and brought the penalty of the violation upon himself and his descendants.

All men partaking of the consequences of the fall, are both totally depraved and guilty of actual transgression of God's laws.

No man can free himself from his native depravity, or from condemnation. No man can save himself. There is no way of salvation but by Jesus Christ.

The Christian Sabbath is the first day of the week, and should be kept holy and consecrated to the service and worship of God in obedience to the command, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," and in commemoration of the resurrection on that day of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The ordinances of the gospel are two—Baptism and the Lord's sup-

per. The great head of the church requires the perpetual observance of these ordinances by the church requires the perpetual observance of these ordinances by the church as such and under their authority.

Baptism is the immersion of the believer in water by one duly qualified and authorized to administer the rite. It is prerequisite to church membership.

A gospel church is a company of Baptist believers, organized under the laws of its Great Head for the advancement of God's kingdom in the world. The officers of the church are its pastors and deacons. Each church is an independent body, subject only to the commands of its Great Head. The work required of the church is missionary in its character. "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

The Holy Spirit continues the work of sanctification upon those whom he has regenerated to the end of life, and thus saves all who are regenerated from apostacy.

All who will be finally saved were chosen of God the father, before the foundation of the world, and gave to Jesus Christ in the covenant of grace; yet all who will be lost will have rejected a preferred salvation.

The bodies of all who die will be raised from the dead and reunited to their spirits for the judgment of the great day.

In the last day Jesus will come to judge the world, and having assembled all men before him, will pass sentence upon them according to their works.

Heaven is a place to which the righteous will be received and made perfectly happy in the presence and enjoyment of God forever.

Hell is a place into which the wicked shall be cast to suffer eternal punishment for their sins.

REPORT ON DECLARATION OF FAITH AND PRACTICE.

Article 1. We believe that there are three that bear record in heaven: The Father, Word and Holy Ghost; and that these three are one, the only living and true God, the creator and preserver of all men of the universe.—1st John 5, 7; 1st Tim. 2, 5; Proverbs 26, 4.

2. We believe the Word was made flesh in the person of the man Christ Jesus, who is God over all, and blessed ever more.—John 1, 14; 1st Timothy 2, 5; Romans 9, 9.

3. That all scripture, as contained in the Holy Bible is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for correction, for reproof, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.—2d Timothy 3, 16; 2d Peter 1, 20, 21.

4. That the law and testimony, as set forth in the scriptures, is the only rule of faith and practice to Christians in their scriptural concerns, and their conduct as individuals and as members of the churches.—Isaiah 8, 20.

5. That Adam, the natural head and representative of all mankind, fell from his state of original purity, that by his disobedience all his posterity are made sinners.—Gen. 3; Romans 5, 12, 19.

6. That by the obedience of Christ alone sinners are restored to the favor of God, and through his unmerited mercy receive regeneration,

pardon, justification, sanctification and glorification.—Romans 5, 19; 8, 29; John 3, 16.

7. That those blessings are communicated by the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven, so that those who are saved by grace, through faith, and not of themselves, not of works, least any man should boast not by works of righteousness which they have done, but by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost.—1 Peter 1, 12; Ephesians 2, 8, 9; Titus 3, 5.

8. That God works all things after the council of His own will, foreknown unto Him are all His works from the beginning; and that, of course, all that the Father hath given to Christ shall come to Him and He will raise them up at the last day, so that His sheep will hear His voice, and shall never perish; become dead to the world and sin, be made alive to God, and shall, when He who is their life shall appear with Him in Glory.—Ephesians 1, 2; Acts 15, 18; John 6, 30; 10, 28, 29; Col. 3, 3, 4.

9. We believe that believers should obey the commandments of Christ and maintain good works for necessary uses.—John 14, 15; Titus 3, 14.

10. That sinners of the vilest character may obtain salvation through Christ without money and without price.—Isaiah 1, 18, 55; John 3, 16.

11. That there will be a resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment, according to the decision of which the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, and the righteous to life eternal.—Daniel 12, 2; John 5, 28, 29; Rev. 20, 12, 13; Matthew 25, 30, and to the end.

12. That God has instituted a church on earth, existing in distinct bodies, the only scriptural members of which are the faithful in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, who are immersed in water in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, and who have given themselves to the Lord and to one another in the church relation by the will of God and their voluntary compact.—Matt. 18, 18; Cor. 1, 2; Eph. 1, 2; Romans 6, 3.

13. That each church of Jesus Christ is independent of all authority but that of her head, and she has unnder Him the exclusive power of managing all her concerns of judging of the qualification of her own members for the offices they are to fill, and of chosing her own offieers in conformity with the direction of the Word of God.—Matt. 14, 18; 2 Thes. 2, 11; 1 Cor. 14, 20, 21; Acts 14, 23; (see original) Phil. 1, 5.

14. That the officers of the churches are pastors and deacons only. 1st Timothy 3.

15. That scriptural baptism is an ordinance of the Gospel and consists in immersing the body of a disciple of the Lord Jesus in water upon a profession of his faith in Christ.—Mat. 18, 19; Mark 16, 16; John 4, 1, 2; Acts 2, 41; Acts 8, 12, 37, 38; Acts 10, 47, 48; Rom. 6, 3; Col. 2, 12.

16. That the Lord's Supper is a standing ordinance of the Church of Christ, consisting in a believing participation of bread and wine, to be observed in commemoration of the death of Christ, and to show forth His death until He comes the second time—Matthew 16. 28; 27, 26; Acts 2, 42; 20, 7; 1 Cor. 11, 23, 27.

W. W. WESTER, } Com.
J. L JONES, }

STATISTICS OF ETOWAH B

CHURCHES.	COUNTY	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S POSTOFFICE.
Antioch	St. Clair	N A Hood	M G Williams	Steele's Depot
Attalla	Etowah	W L Culbertson	T L Swanson	Attalla
Bethany	"	J E Smith	R W Brock	Hill
Bristoe's Creek	"	J A May	H H Russell	Aurora
Center	"	B F Smith	W L Brown	Attalla
Cane Springs	"	B F Smith	T P Galloway	Buford
Dwight	"	G E Jones	C McFarland	Alabama City
East Gadsden	"	J W Battle	D N Jelks	East Gadsden
Fairview	"	J W Battle	G H Braden	Brice
Friendship	"	J T Chadwick	W J Cunningham	Gadsden
Gadsden	"	J W Willis	J H Holcombe	"
Greenwood	"	A N Mince	O B Hawkins	Keener
Liberty Coosa	"	J A May	D D Nabors	Hoke's Bluff
Mt. Arraat	"	J E Smith	F M Nabors	Glencoe
Mt. Carmel	"	H W Roberts	J L Jones	Gadsden
Macedonia	"	W J Nash	W R League	Turkeytown
New Harmony	"	B F Smith	W H Tucker	Crudup
Pilgrim's Rest	"	J E Smith	W P Archer	Markton
Pleasant Valley	"	W W Wester	J W Swindall	Attalla
Pleasant Hill	"	B F Smith	W H Hill	Hill
Union No. 1	"	J A May	S P Guest	Yancey
Union No. 2	"	G W Lovell	W A Culbertson	Gallant
Walnut Grove	"	W L Culbertson	C L Murphree	Walnut Grove
White's Springs	"	J T Chadwick	E P Little	Etowahton
White's Chapel				

APTIST ASSOCIATION, 1898.

Membership	INCR'ASE BY				DEC'E BY			Present Membership	SUNDAY SCHOOL.			Preaching Sabbaths	Reports Prayer Meeting	Reports Revival
	Baptism	Letter	Voucher	Restoration.	Letter	Exclusion	Death		Officers and Teachers.	Pupils	Superintendent's Name and Postoffice.			
67	13	2		1	5		1	77	6	50	W M Shaw, Steele's Depot	4		1
10	11	7			7		3	118	9	96	N N Vann, Attalla	2–4	1	1
89	5	6			2		1	97	8	47	Sister Lonie Funderburg, Hill	4		1
88	6	8		4	7			93				4		1
39	11	5	1					56	5	40	B F Kirkland, Gadsden	3		1
82	1	2			17			65				1		1
17	29	60			4		1	101						
82	1	4		4	8	12	1	71	9	72	W P Sears, East Gadsden	3	1	1
18	1	9		6	8	4	3	119	5	25	T P Hill, Brice	1	1	1
....								37	6	60	W J Cunningham, Gadsden			
79	19	27			11	2	3	209	17	150	S J Carlton, Gadsden	E S	1	1
53	1	3	1		8			50	7	25	N W Sauls, Keener	4		1
80	26	14		3	14	3	1	205		110	A H Barnes, Hoke's Bluff	2–4	1	1
42	9	8					2	57	8	30	F M Noah, Ewing	2		1
257		3			62	1	6	191	7	58	S V Wilson, Gadsden	1	1	
46	9	2			2		1	54				4		1
61	11	18		1	4	1	2	84				2		1
....	8	3			10			168	6	75	G H Myrick, Markton	3		
37	3	1			2			39				2		1
....								23				4	1	
150		8			3		2	153	5	40	O Q Norton, Seaborn	3	1	1
65	6	9			2	1		77				1		1
113					3		2	108	9	96	J T Campbell, Walnut Grove	4	1	
....	16		1		34		3	75	6		R R Yeates, Gadsden	2		
....														
884	186	199	3	19	213	24	32	2330	113	974				

Financial Exhibit of Etowah Baptist Association for Year 1898.

CHURCHES.	MISSIONS.			Bible and Colportage	EDUCATOIN.		Orphans' Home	Minutes.....	HOME EXPENSES.			TOTAL.	VALUE OF PROPE'Y.
	State.....	Home.....	Foreign.....		Ministerial.	Incidental..			Pastor's Salary	Repairs and New Buildings	Poor, Fuel, Sunday Schools, Etc		
Antioch													
Attalla	$6 00								$178 85	$56 90	$90 64	$326 39	$1,600 00
Bethany	55		$2 00					50	48 00		1 75	49 75	750 00
Bristoe's Creek.			2 70					60				60	
Center		$1 25						75				75	300 00
Cane Springs								45				45	
Dwight	1 00	35	35		35		35	60	36 05			36 65	
East Gadsden		3 27						50	45 00		10 64	55 64	500 00
Fairview			1 15					1 00	25 00			26 00	500 00
Friendship		50	50					50			3 63	4 13	
Gadsden			219 65		$14 14	$119 00	11 25	2 00	800 00		94 71	895 41	7,000 00
Greenwood		1 30						85					
Liberty Coosa			7 67					2 00	125 00				
Mt. Arraat	1 80		8 17					50	40 00	6 00	4 48	50 48	260 00
Mt. Carmel		6 04						1 25					1,200 00
Macedonia	4 54							50					
New Harmony		1 50	1 00					1 00	25 00				200 00
Pilgrim's Rest		4 75					1 01	1 00			9 00		
Pleasant Valley.								50					150 00
Pleasant Hill			1 67					50	20 00				150 00
Union No. 1	1 60	1 00	1 00					1 50	89 00		8 65		400 00
Union No. 2	45	45	45		45	45		1 00					200 00
Walnut Grove								50	100 00	60	50 00		1,500 00
White's Springs			2 75	$4 00				60			2 80		400 00
Whites Chapel													
Total	$19 88	$20 41	$249 06	$4 00	$14 94	$119 45	$12 61	$18 55	$1,531 90	$63 50	$216 00	$1,446 25	$15,110 00

Collections at Assoeiation, State Missions, $3.94.